

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): An electrosurgical device including an electrode, a handle connected to the electrode and an electrical source in communication with the handle to transfer electrical energy to the electrode for contacting tissue in a body during an electrosurgical procedure, said electrode comprising:

an electrically conductive substrate; and

at least one substantially uniform coating applied to said substrate, wherein the coating includes a cured electrostatically grounded wet base material having a plurality of electrostatically charged dry anti-microbial particles interspersed in said base material and at least in part electrostatically bonded to said base material, wherein said anti-microbial particles are formulated to reduce or kill a plurality of microbial organisms independent of any energy source.

Claim 2 (original): The electrosurgical device of Claim 1, wherein the conductive substrate includes a metal.

Claim 3 (original): The electrosurgical device of Claim 2, wherein the metal includes stainless steel.

Claim 4 (original): The electrosurgical device of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the conductive substrate includes an electrically insulative material, which is applied to the surface of the conductive substrate.

Claim 5 (original): The electrosurgical device of Claim 4, wherein only a portion of the conductive substrate underneath the insulative material includes the substantially uniform coating.

Claim 6 (original): The electrosurgical device of Claim 1, wherein the base material includes a non-stick material.

Claim 7 (original): The electrosurgical device of Claim 6, wherein the non-stick material includes at least one of the non-stick materials selected from the group consisting of: silicone, polytetrafluoroethylene, a fluoropolymer, ceramics and a combination of fluorosilicones.

Claim 8 (original): The electrosurgical device of Claim 1, wherein the anti-microbial particles include at least one of the group consisting of: silver particles and ceramic particles.

Claims 9 to 17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): The electrosurgical device of Claim ~~17~~¹⁴, wherein only a portion of the conductive substrate underneath the insulative material includes a top coating.

Claims 19 to 27 (cancelled).

Claim 28 (previously presented): An electrosurgical instrument comprising:
an electrically conductive substrate including a proximal end and a distal end;

a handle connected to the proximal end of said substrate;

at least one electrical transfer member connected to the handle, which transfers electrical energy from an electrical source through the handle to the conductive substrate; and

at least one substantially uniform coating applied to said substrate, wherein the coating includes a cured electrostatically grounded wet base material having a plurality of electrostatically charged dry anti-microbial particles interspersed in said base material and at least in part electrostatically bonded to said base material, wherein said anti-microbial particles are formulated to reduce or kill a plurality of microbial organisms independent of any energy source.

Claims 29 to 38 (cancelled).

Claim 39 (previously presented): A method of coating an electrosurgical device including an electrically conductive substrate, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) evenly applying a substantially uniform coating to a surface of the conductive substrate, said coating including an electrically or electrostatically grounded wet base material and a plurality of anti-microbial particles interspersed in the base material, wherein said anti-microbial particles are formulated to reduce or kill a plurality of microbial organisms independent of any energy source and said anti-microbial particles have an electrical or electrostatic charge opposite the electrical charge of the base material; and

(b) at least partially curing the base material and the particles interspersed in the base material.

Claims 40 to 67 (cancelled).

Claim 68 (previously presented): The electrosurgical device of Claim 1, which includes at least one additional coating of dry anti-microbial particles applied on top of the substantially uniform coating.

Claim 69 (previously presented): The electrosurgical instrument of Claim 28, which includes at least one additional coating of dry anti-microbial particles applied on top of the substantially uniform coating.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The method of coating an electrosurgical device of Claim 39, which includes applying at least one additional coating of dry anti-microbial particles on top of the applied substantially uniform coating.

Claim 71 (previously presented): An electrosurgical device including an electrode configured to be attached to a handle which is connectable to an electrical source to transfer electrical energy to the electrode for contacting tissue in a body during an electrosurgical procedure, said electrode comprising:

an electrically conductive substrate; and

at least one substantially uniform coating applied to said substrate, wherein the coating includes a cured electrostatically grounded wet base material having a plurality of electrostatically charged dry anti-microbial particles interspersed in said base material and at least in part electrostatically bonded to said base material, wherein said anti-microbial particles are formulated to reduce or kill a plurality of microbial organisms independent of any energy source.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The electrosurgical device of Claim 71, wherein the conductive substrate includes a metal.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The electrosurgical device of Claim 72, wherein the metal includes stainless steel.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The electrosurgical device of Claim 71, wherein at least a portion of the conductive substrate includes an electrically insulative material, which is applied to the surface of the conductive substrate.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The electrosurgical device of Claim 74, wherein only a portion of the conductive substrate underneath the insulative material includes the substantially uniform coating.

Claim 76 (previously presented): The electrosurgical device of Claim 71, wherein the base material includes a non-stick material.

Claim 77 (previously presented): The electrosurgical device of Claim 76, wherein the non-stick material includes at least one of the non-stick materials selected from the group consisting of: silicone, polytetrafluoroethylene, a fluoropolymer, ceramics and a combination of fluorosilicones.

Claim 78 (previously presented): The electrosurgical device of Claim 71, wherein the anti-microbial particles include at least one of the group consisting of: silver particles and ceramic particles.

Claim 79 (cancelled).

Claim 80 (currently amended): The electrosurgical device of Claim ~~79~~74, wherein only a portion of the conductive substrate underneath the insulative material includes a top coating.

Claim 81 (previously presented): The electrosurgical device of Claim 71, which includes at least one additional coating of dry anti-microbial particles applied on top of the substantially uniform coating.